[*English*]

Hong Kong Based State TV

5723. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hong-Kong based STAR TV has brightened Indian Screens by making its debut in the Indian skies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian viewers will have to make any extra arrangements on their T.Vs to get benefit of this arrangements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The contours of ASIASAT Satellite footprint cover the whole of India except some parts of Southern India.

(c) and (d). The TV programmes transmitted via ASIASAT can be received by an individual viewer in India only after he/she instals an appropriate dish antenna with the TV receiving set. The existing licencing procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Communications, however, does not permit establishment of a dish antenna for receiving TV programmes from foreign satellites.

Academic Exchange Programme for Sanskrit Scholars

5724. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for academic exchange programme at national and international level for scholars working in the area of computer and Sanskrit;

(b) the names of the centres abroad in USA, Germany and Britain where research in computers and Sanskrit is being carried out; and

(c) the number of scholars who have visited abroad in exchange programmes during the last three years and the number of scholars likely to visit during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The names of some of the centres in America, Germany and Britain where research in Computer and Sanskrit is being carried out are given below:-

(1) SUNY, Buffalo, USA.

(2) Lousiana State University, USA.

(3) University of Michigan, USA.

(4) Lamar University Station, Texas, USA.

(5) University of Hawaii, USA.

(6) Indiana University, USA.

(7) Institute Kern, Germany.

(8) Oxford University, UK.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds for 20 Point Programme to States

5725. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to State: